

## Goddard Inventions Win Awards

By Nancy Pefar

### NASA Software Invention of the Year

At a September 6 ceremony, Goddard's Land Information System (LIS), which helps enable accurate prediction of Earth's water and energy cycles, received this prestigious recognition. The award emphasizes those software innovations that have a positive impact on NASA's mission and others areas of science and technology.

LIS enables scientists to obtain near-real-time land surface information at a fine resolution: 1-km scale. LIS greatly increases the efficiency of Earth-system modeling and expedites the incorporation of the latest Earth science for research and applications, saving NASA an estimated \$3 million per year. LIS also provides useful information for water-resource management, weather prediction, air quality, and military operations.

The LIS development team was led by Goddard's Christa Peters-Lidard and Paul Houser of George Mason University. More information is available online (<http://lis.gsfc.nasa.gov/>).

### Federal Laboratory Consortium Mid-Atlantic Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Award

On September 15, James Spinhirne and Ellsworth J. Welton and their colleagues will receive this award, which recognizes laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring a technology to the commercial marketplace.

Their technologies—Micro Pulse Lidar (MPL) and the MPL Network—have opened the door to a previously inaccessible realm of research. MPL allows Earth's atmospheric aerosols and clouds to be safely studied with lidar in a mode of continuous, autonomous operation, especially in remote areas. MPLNET makes the data from many MPL devices freely available for use by a wide range of researchers, many of whom have published important findings.

Through MPL and MPLNET, researchers around the world are gaining a better understanding of the atmosphere's aerosols and their movement over the globe. This better allows the sources for pollution to be traced and opportunities to make changes to protect the environment to be identified. It also allows for anticipating and protecting against dangerous aerosol conditions, as is done with the Doppler radar system for weather prediction. More information is available online (<http://mplnet.gsfc.nasa.gov>).

### Interested? Goddard's OTT Can Help

The Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) is committed to nominating Goddard technologists for these and other awards. For more information about the Awards Program, see Awards section of OTT's Web site (<http://techtransfer.gsfc.nasa.gov/awards-info.html>) or contact Dale Hithon (x6-2691; [Dale.L.Hithon@nasa.gov](mailto:Dale.L.Hithon@nasa.gov)). ■



Photo Credit: Dale Hithon

Award Winners: (from left to right) Frederick Gregory, Luther Lighty, Sujay Kumar, Christa Peters-Lidard, James Geiger, Jr., Susan Olden, Yudong Tian, and Keith Hudkins.